



Ontario Provincial Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Education and Health Standing Committee Chair
Go Make a Difference

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September 9, 2023

To: Diocesan and Parish Standing Committee Chairs for Education and Health, Service and Social Justice
Cc: Linda Squarzolo, Ontario Provincial President, Diocesan Presidents, Ontario Provincial Officers, Marlin Taylor, Life Member (OPC Education and Health Sub-Committee), National Education and Health Chair
From: Hilarion Mitchell, Ontario Provincial Education and Health Standing Committee Chair

The right to a truly human life logically leads to the right to enough food to sustain a life with dignity. (Catholic Social Teaching and Agriculture)

Summer 2023 made us more keenly aware of social justice issues on poverty, homelessness, food insecurity, refugees and the environment (i.e., global warming/boiling, forest fires (Alberta, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec), Ontario greenbelt, etc. The [blue hyperlinks](#) will provide more details on the articles in this directive.

Addressing Food Insecurity

Issues around access and affordability have been more prevalent with the high cost of living. Food insecurity is the inability to acquire or consume an adequate diet quality or sufficient quantity of food in socially acceptable ways, or the uncertainty that one will be able to do so. Household food insecurity is often linked with the household's financial ability to access adequate food. (Health Canada)

Food Insecurity is a serious public health issue in Canada. Statistics Canada's Canadian Income Survey (CIS), in 2022, 18.4% of people in the ten provinces lived in a food-insecure household which, translates to 6.9 million people, including almost 1.8 million children. This is a considerable increase from 2021 with 15.9% of households in the ten provinces, translates to 5.8 million people, including 1.4 million children. [PROOF](#).

Governments and several organizations including the World Union of Catholic Women Organizations (WUCWO) has included the global food crisis as one of their 2023-2027 resolutions. The Toronto Diocesan Council 5th Moira Ste. Marie Lecture Series will be on Addressing Food Insecurity. Members, non-members, clergy, parishioners, parish ministry groups, schools, family and friends can attend.

See [September 2023 ON-Line Newsletter](#) (page24) on [Addressing Food Insecurity](#)

Date: Monday Sept. 25, 2023 (virtual)

Time: 7:00 pm

- Guest Speakers: [Yong Street Mission](#) (YSM), a Christian development agency specializing in poverty-related challenges.
- Registration: Shaila D'Souza shailaflavy@gmail.com

International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction (Sept. 29)

The issue of food insecurity can also be juxtaposed against high level food loss and waste. This is of concern when so many in and beyond our community go without or does not have enough or quality food to eat. Canadians create over 50 million tonnes of food waste every year despite 60% of it being avoidable through better planning and awareness. The average Canadian household produces 79 kilograms of food waste per year and 47% of food waste in Canada is generated at the household level. [Made in Canada Food Waste Statistics in Canada](#).

"Globally, around 14 percent of food produced is lost between harvest and retail, while an estimated 17 percent of total global food production is wasted (11 percent in households, 5 percent in the food service and 2 percent in retail). When food is lost or wasted, all the resources that were used to produce this food - including water, land, energy, labour and capital - go to waste. In addition, the disposal of food loss and waste in landfills, leads to greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to climate change. Food loss and waste can also negatively impact food security and food availability, and contribute to increasing the cost of food." [United Nations International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction](#)

- Resolution: 2022.01 [Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste](#)
- [Tips On Reducing Food Waste At Home](#)

Season of Creation 2023

[Season of Creation](#), an ecumenical celebration is held annually from September 1st, World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to October 4th, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. The theme for this year is *Let Justice and Peace Flow*. "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5: 24). We are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity. See [Celebration Guide](#) for planning and recognition of the event.

September: [World Environmental Health Day](#) (Sept. 26)

October: [Circular Economy Month \(Canada\)](#)

3rd Week of October: Waste Reduction Week in Canada

[World Food Day](#) (Oct. 16)

2023 National Education and Health Archived Resolutions

Two of the eleven archived resolutions were on environmental issues below.

- 2015.02 Ban Plastic Microbeads in Personal Care Products
- 2015.03 Banning the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides.

Resolutions are archived if there has been a change since they were adopted and if a government bill addressed its concern. Archived resolutions are no longer posted on the national website but are still available from the national office for members requesting.